



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : Confirmation No. 2503
Yoshio HATA et al. : Docket No. 2001_0700A
Serial No. 09/857,943 : Group Art Unit 1711
Filed June 12, 2001 : Examiner Patricia Hightower

#9/B
5/12/03
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GROUP 1700

PROCESS FOR PRODUCING POLYMER

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

This Amendment is filed responsive to the Official Action dated October 30, 2002 issued in the above-identified application, along with a Petition for a three-month extension of time, making a response due on or before April 30, 2003.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 10 and 15 as set forth below. Please see Appendix A.

B¹
10. (Twice Amended) A biodegradable polymer comprising a free carboxyl group at the ω -end, produced by the process as set forth in claim 1.

B²
15. (Amended) A biodegradable polymer comprising a free carboxyl group at the ω -end, produced by the process as set forth in claim 7.